

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6, 11, 13-16, 19, 21, and 23-31 were pending for examination. A non-final office action mailed May 29, 2009 ("Office Action"), has allowed claims 1-6, 11, 13-16, 19, 21, and 28-31; objected to claims 24, 26-27; and rejected claims 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,687,506 to Girod et al. (hereinafter "Girod") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,455 to Park et al. (hereinafter "Park").

This amendment amends claims 23, 26, and 27, and cancels claim 24. No new claims have been added. Hence, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 11, 13-16, 19, 21, 23, and 25-31 will stand pending for examination. Claims 1, 13, 23, and 28 are independent claims. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims, for at least the reasons presented below.

Interview Summary

Undersigned counsel appreciates the courtesy shown by the Examiner in the short telephone conference held between the Examiner and undersigned counsel on August 31, 2009. During that telephone conference, the Examiner clarified that section 5 of the Office Action is incorrect, and that claim 3, 5, 6, and 16, currently stand allowed.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate elements previously recited by claim 24, and claim 24 has been canceled accordingly. Claims 26 and 27 have been rewritten in independent format.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants express to the Office their appreciation for the indication that claims 1-6, 11, 13-16, 19, 21, and 28-31 are allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

As noted above, the Office Action rejected claims 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Girod in view of Park. The applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections, and it is submitted that the Office Action fails to establish a prima facie case that any pending claim is unpatentable under § 103(a). Nonetheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution of this application, the claims have been amended to place them in condition for allowance, in accordance with the Office Action's indication of allowability, as noted above.

The applicants, however, reserve the right to pursue the unamended claims in this or another application, and specifically reserve the right to contest the rejection of any claims over the references cited herein. Hence, the amendment of the claims herein should not be interpreted as either an acquiescence to the rejections in the Office Action or a concession that the combined disclosures of Girod and Park teach or suggest each element of any claim pending prior to entry of this amendment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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